

breakfast and pass it together. Every day furnished some new trait of this kind.

On the 14th of April, 1816, Sir Hudson Lowe, the new Governor, arrived at St. Helena. This epoch is important, as marking the beginning of a continued series of accusations, and counter-accusations, by which the last five years of Napoleon's life were constantly occupied, to the great annoyance of himself and all connected with him, and possibly to the shortening of his own existence.¹ It would be tedious to detail the progress of this petty war, but, as a subject which has formed so great a portion of the life of Napoleon, it must not be omitted. To avoid anything which may appear like a bias against Napoleon, the details, unless when otherwise mentioned, will be derived from Las Cases, his devoted admirer.

On the first visit of the new Governor, which was the 14th of April, Napoleon refused to admit him, because he himself was ill, and also because the Governor had not asked beforehand for an audience. On the second visit the Governor was admitted to an audience, and Napoleon seems to have taken a prejudice at first sight, as he remarked to his suite that the Governor was "hideous, and had a most ugly countenance," though he allowed he ought not to judge too hastily. The spirit of the party was shown by a remark made, that the first two days had been days of battle.

The Governor saw Napoleon again on the 30th April, and the interview was stormy. Napoleon argued with the Governor on the conduct of the Allies towards him, said they had

¹ Although there is no doubt that many of the complaints made against Sir Hudson Lowe came from the peevishness of the staff and servants of Napoleon, still it was but natural that both the Emperor and the others, accustomed to luxury or at least comfort, and suddenly deprived of all employment, should feel deeply the treatment they received. If there was any possible reason for the petty annoyances about the title of Emperor, there could have been none for not giving Napoleon the income at least of an English peer. The English Government might easily have learnt, if they did not know, that Napoleon had the same disease from which his father died, and there was therefore the less reason for denying him anything he wished for. In all the conduct of Sir Hudson Lowe and of the Government there is a total forgetfulness that Napoleon had been for fifteen years the chosen ruler of France, and that he would have so remained except for the whole strength of Europe being brought to bear against him. He had done enormous service to France and Europe in ending the cruel follies of the Revolution, and in re-establishing religion in France. Our fathers had fought gallantly enough against him to have afforded to be generous.